



[TS - HK - 48802]

DIA SPOT REPORT
96ADATE: 2 November 1973
TIME: 1230 EST

SUBJECT: Syrian Resumption of Hostilities?

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REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

1. (TS/LIMDIS) Key Israeli intelligence personnel fear a Syrian resumption of hostilities within the next few weeks. The Syrian Army feels it must resume the attack to regain "face." According to the Israelis, some 800 tanks and sufficient MiG-21/FISHBEDs to replace those lost have been resupplied to Syria. The tanks have been hastily deployed to armored units and the FISHBEDs deployed to forward air bases. SAM forces have returned to near pre-hostility levels. The key factor in the offensive planning will be whether enough qualified Syrian tank crews are available to man the newly delivered tanks.
2. (TS/LIMDIS) Within two to four weeks, rain in Golan Heights and north and east toward Damascus will render cross-country armor movement difficult, except for main highways. This would effectively delay the Syrians offensive until spring.
- 3- (TS/LIMDIS) The Israelis also feel that if they were to launch a punitive action against the fedayeen in southern Lebanon, the Syrians would construe this as a resumption of attacks upon themselves and renew full-scale warfare.

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RELEASED BY:

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DIA review completed.

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COMMENT

(TS/LIMDIS) As the Israelis have indicated, one key to any Syrian offensive action is finding sufficiently trained crews to man the reported 800 newly-arrived tanks. Another factor is the doubtful ability of the Syrian Army, which has been roughly handled, to regain the offensive from a fully-mobilized, alert Israeli Army that now controls key terrain features. A third factor is the withdrawal from Syria of the Iraqi armor force. These critical factors make any major offensive by the Syrians seem doubtful, although it cannot be totally discounted. A major flare-up of hostilities following an Israeli punitive retaliatory raid on the fedayeen in southern Lebanon seems more likely; however, [REDACTED] are generally observing the cease-fire.

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